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Powers' Dad

ROANOKE, Va. (UPI)—

The father of imprisoned American pilot Francis Gary Powers said Wednesday he will go to Washington next week to seek a Soviet visa to visit his son in the Soviet Union in the spring.

Oliver W. Powers of Norton, Va., repeated an earlier prediction that his son, serving a three-year sentence in a prison camp not far from Moscow, will have been moved to a penal colony a year and a half ahead of schedule.

The U2 pilot's plane was downed 1,300 miles inside the Soviet frontier May 1, 1960. At a Moscow trial he drew a sentence of three years in prison and seven years in a penal colony.

The father said the son recently wrote that Soviet authorities have told him the father will get a visa when he applies for it.

The Norton shoemaker disclosed he sent photographs and other supporting documents for the visa to the Soviet embassy in Washington nearly two months ago.

The pilot's father and mother were in Moscow for the trial in August, 1960.

"They [the Soviet authorities] told me then I could come back and see him any time," the father said Wednesday.

He predicted the transfer of his son to a work camp will come "in October or November."

Earlier this month Soviet



Francis Gary Powers
... pilot in prison

Premier Khrushchev said young Powers may not have to serve his full sentence but that his immediate release was out of the question.

Powers said he is sending his son another Spanish book, the one a second-year grammar, first-year book and Spanish dictionary were sent earlier.

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